179*

A Friendly DIALOGUE BETWEEN A LIVERY-MAN AND A FREEMAN OF THE City of LONDON;

CONCERNING

The Late Proceedings at *Guild-Hall*, in the Election of Sheriffs, and other Officers for the City of *London*, and County of *Middlesex*, for the Year Ensuing.

In Order to the Right Stating and Clearing up the Controversie between the Lord Mayor, and the Court of Aldermen, and the Livery-men of the Respective Companies, as to their present Establishment.

By a true and most sincere Well-wisher to the Peace, Plenty and Prosperity of this most Antient and Renowned Corporation, and to all the Members and Inhabitants thereof.

BEATI PACIFICI.

He that is first is his own Cause seemeth Just; but his Neighbour cometh and searcheth him, Prov. 18. 17.

The Second Edition, Revised, Corrected, and Enlarged.

LONDON Printed, and Sold by *John Whitlock*, in *Stationers-Court*, near *Stationers-Hall*. 1695.

A

DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

A *Livery-Man* and a *Freeman*, &c.

Livery-man. WEll met, Brother Citizen, I am heartily glad to ſee you; but pray tell me now, how have you done ſince *Midſummer*-Day laſt? For then I ſaw you in the Common-Hall very buſie, and warmly Engaged with ſome ſort of Men, about the Election of Sheriffs, and of the Power of the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, *&c.* as if you had been as good a Livery-man as the beſt of them all, though you had no Right to be there.

Freeman. And I am as heartily glad to ſee you in good Health, as any Friend and Relation I have this Day in the World; and as to your queſtion, I have been extraordinary well ſince *Midſummer*-Day laſt, ſo Gay, ſo Brisk, ſo Airy, and ſo well pleaſed, ſatisfied and contented in my Mind, as to ſome Concerns and Tranſactions lately among us, as that I am at preſent ſo Tranſported, even to Admiration; and now Brother Citizen, (and Mr. Livery-man) as to what you charge me withal, I ſhall deal very frankly and freely with you, in regard I am ſatisfied I ſhall receive no damage from ſuch an intimate and good Friend as you have been to me, whom by ex-

perience I have known to be ſuch above Thirty Years, and therefore to tell you the Naked Truth (I muſt confeſs) I was there, and am conſtantly there at ſuch Publick Elections; and tho' there is always Proclamation made, *That all you that are not of the Livery, muſt depart the Hall upon Pain of Impriſonment*, yet I ſtill ſtand my ground, (tho' many times well crouded for my pains) and love to ſtand up for the Rights and Liberties of the Citizens of *London*, in regard I am one my ſelf, tho' not ſo well qualified as you are, with a Pudding at your Back, as I have often ſeen you upon a Lord Mayor's Day.

Livery-man. But Brother Citizen, ſuppoſe you ſhould be caught in the Croud, and ſent to *Lobb*'s Pound for your Pains, and a Fine ſet upon your Head, for daring to appear among us, when you have not the leaſt pretence to be there, as being not qualified for that Numerous and Grand Aſſembly.

Freeman. Truly Sir, you may very well call it a Numerous and Grand Aſſembly, but I preſume you may thank us Freemen, for the Honour we do you, to make you ſo. For my part, ſince I have uſed to frequent the Hall, I have ſeen but very few Livery men there; and tho' there was particular Order from the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, (to prevent us, I preſume, from coming in for the future) that they muſt the next Summons appear in their Ancient and Decent Formalities, in their Livery-gowns, yet it was not obſerved among your ſelves; and we got in with the Croud, notwithſtanding my Lord Mayor's Order: And as to any danger of being ſent to *Lobb*'s Pound, I will run the Riſque of that, until you ſhall contrive ſome better way and method to keep us out; and for my part, I do as much Service in the Hall by Aiding, Aſſiſting, Encouraging and Abetting for our good Friends, as if I had been a Livery-man this Twenty Years.

Livery-man. Well, I hope in time we ſhall take ſuch meaſures as ſhall do your buſineſs effectually. But pray my Friend, now tell me what Party you were for in the Common Hall; for in my obſerva-

obſervation there was a great Party which were reputed all as Brethren of one ſtamp, yet were very hot and violent one againſt the other: So that there was (as ſome call you) *Whig* againſt *Whig*; and another Party, which ſome call *Tories*, (Pretty Names of Diſtinction, to ſet us in time altogether by the Ears) in the mean time laughing in their Sleeves, to ſee you fall out, and at ſuch variance one with the other, and they cry'd out, *Fight Dog, fight Bear, and let Old Nick part you*: And this was Nutts & Sport alone to that ſort of Livery-men: And there was ſuch a great Noiſe and Confuſion in the Hall about the Sheriffs and Chamberlain (and would ſuffer no vote to be put up but what pleaſed their humour) that no man can foreſee what will be the Conſequence of ſuch proceedings, which I was heartily ſorry to ſee; but more eſpecially at this preſent Conjuncture, to conteſt with the Lord-Mayor and Court of Aldermen, now His Majeſty is abſent, (and fighting our Battles for us) was not well timed; and how many is there at this day, (ſuch as our diſtinguiſhing *de facto* and *de Jure* Men) that watch for ſuch an opportunity, to blow the Coals of Diſſention among us: though I hope all their expectations will be Fruſtrated. And if it ſhall pleaſe the Divine Providence to give good Succeſs to his Majeſty's Forces, both by Sea and Land, at his Return, I do really believe, for my part, he will confirm and reſtore unto us all our Rights and Liberties whatſoever (as we can modeſtly claim) in as full and more ample manner (without Reſerve) as any of the Kings and Queens of *England*, his Royal Predeceſſours has done before him.

Free-man. Well, I hope he will; for if after the Expence of ſo much Blood and Treaſure, to make us a free People, and to ſave us from *Popery* and Slavery, and Arbitrary Government, (and the *Gallican* Yoke, worſe than the *Egyptian* Bondage) he ſhould not, Alas, alas! we ſhould then be in a far worſe Condition than before; but *Dum Spiro Spero*.

Livery-

Livery-man. Well Brother Citizen, You ſpeak ſomething feelingly, and as one much concern'd; but it is the Language, and private VVhiſpering of many Thouſands beſides your ſelf, but I hope they will have no real cauſe for ſuch Cogitations; but this is not to our preſent purpoſe, pray as to the laſt Queſtion, let me know what party of Livery-men you did take in that warm Combuſtion?

Free-man. My good Friend, 'tis true, there was ſome kind of Noiſe indeed in the Hall, (I muſt confeſs) more than uſual, but you know it was *Midſummer-Moon*, and there ought to be ſome grains of allowance for that; but for my part to, anſwer directly to your Queſtion, I was clearly for that part of the Livery-men (though ſome give us the nick-name of Whiggs) in oppoſition to my Lord-Mayor and Court of Aldermen, and Common Council-men in Common Council Aſſembled; being informed by my very good Friends the Sheriff-Makers (Men of great parts and abilities, in the knowledge of our true Antient Fundamental Rights and Liberties) that the Livery-Men of the City of *London* are above all theſe great Men; which they have made out in a late Printed Paper (which I hope you have ſeen) to the great content and ſatisfaction of all our Friends; and therefore we will not now tamely ſubmit and conform to any of their By-Laws by them made, unleſs firſt, confirmed by us in our Common-Hall, that grand and Numerous Aſſembly, as you before intimated.

Livery-man. But waving any farther Preamble and Introduction, Pray let us come now to be very ſerious, calm and ſedate, one with another; and we will lay the Axe to the Root of the Tree, and will examine things to the very Bottom, in order to the fair ſtating and clearing up the preſent Controverſy now upon the Stage, as to your Friends late Proceedings; for I will aſſure you, they have hitherto been much in the dark, (which I hope you will be able to underſtand before we part) and there is nothing in all their Papers, which I have ſeen, to

any

any purpoſe in the leaſt; for their making ſuch a Noiſe and Clamour in the Hall, as to their Power and Authority, when there Aſſembled, as they would perſwade you and others to believe. And therefore *Inprimis & ante omnia*, Pray let me ask you this Queſtion, which I doubt not but you can immediate-reſolve me, being you are ſo intimate with them, and they being of ſuch improved Parts and Abilities, as you, even now, intimated; and it is this, *viz.* How came theſe Livery-Men of the City of *London*, and not all the Free-men, either by themſelves or Deputies, to have this great Power and Authority over my Lord-Mayor, Court of Aldermen, and Common-Council-Men in Common-Council Aſſembled, in all their Acts and By-laws by them made, unleſs they have firſt their good-liking, and approbation along with them; and this point well cleared, and fairly underſtood, will, I preſume, put an end to the whole Controverſy of theſe Livery-Gentlemen's Power and Authority, upon which they ſo much magnifie themſelves, this preſent Year 1695.

Freeman. Oh, good Sir, as to this Point, I can give you full ſatisfaction preſently, and therefore ſhall not keep you long in ſuſpence, but be very ſhort and ſuccinct; and therefore you may pleaſe to underſtand, that our Friends inform me, that we Freemen being Summoned, according to our uſual Cuſtom and Manner, to Elect our Officers, and finding the Citizens of *London* to grow very Numerous, Tumultuous and Troubleſome (as you ſay we were laſt *Midſummer*-Day) we did then in our Common Hall conſult with each other, how to prevent ſuch Popular Elections for the future; and in purſuance thereunto, did then make an Act to reduce the Election of our ſaid Officers, to the Livery-men of the Reſpective Companies of *London*; and this way of Election hath continued (as they tell me) above Two Hundred Years, and this I am ſure is time out of Mind.

Livery-man.

Livery-man. Indeed, my good Friend, if this be true, as to Matter of Fact, I may then truly say, it was *Midsummer* Moon in good Earnest. For the Citizens of *London* by their Joint Consent, to give the Power at this rate out of their own Hands, to a mixt Multitude of unknown Persons, such as *Weavers, Glovers, Coopers, Curriers, Blacksmiths, Cordwainers, & cum multis aliis* Mechanicks, and many Hundreds of them living out of the Freedom, and pay neither Scot nor Lot to the City, but only to their Companies; and not to them neither, if they can help it; but when the Honest and Industrious Beadles find them out, and compel them to pay Quarteridge, and other Duties, unto which they are Sworn by their own By-Laws, (Men doubtless well qualified by Virtue of their Education, to be competent Judges in any intricate and disputable Case.) And not rather to have made the Act to a certain select number of Persons chosen out of every Precinct by themselves, to be sent to *Guild-Hall* as their Deputies and Representatives, which would have been according to their Ancient Fundamental Rights and Liberties, long before any Charters were granted unto them? And this was such an Act of Humane Frailty and Imbecility, that no Rational Man in the World can vindicate or defend them herein, as the Result of Grave and Prudent Determinations, and so unlike the Wisdom of our Forefathers, and the Sage Councils of our Worthy Ancestors and Progenitors.

Freeman. My good Friend, I humbly thank you for this intimation, for surely had I survived in those Days of our Forefathers, I should not have been so weak in my Understanding, as to give away my Birthright from my self into the Hands of others unknown, and not to have a Vote in the Choice of them at all times, (but especially once a Year) this certainly no Man would do that had any Brains in his Head, unless he had a mind to be put into *Poor Robin*'s Almanack for an *Ignoramus.*

Livery-man.

Livery-man. Therefore I am apt to conjecture and presume, that your Friends have imposed upon you, in telling you it was an Act of their Common Hall; I believe rather it was an Act of the Common Council in those Days, as some do positively affirm it was, in the 15th Year of *Edward* the 4th, who Invested the Livery-men with that Power; and I dare say, (being very well assured thereof) your Friends cannot produce any Act of the Common Hall of all the Freemen of the City, to give that great Power to the Livery-men, upon whom our Lives, Liberties and Estates do so much depend.

Freeman. Oh! Yes, Sir, they can and have clearly prov'd it beyond Dispute, as they tell me, in their own Printed Papers, *viz.* That the Common Hall is the most Ancient Court, and Highest Authority in *London.* And in those Papers they tell us, That in the 20th of *Edward* the 3d, and in the 43d of *Edward* the 3d, and in the 7th of *Richard* 2d, an Ordinance of the Common Hall was then made, how the Common-Council-Men should be Elected in their several Wards; and this they say is enough to prove that the Common Hall is above the Lord Mayor's, Court of Aldermen, and Common-Council-Men, by their prescribing what Ways and Methods they should be advanced to that Honour and Dignity.

Livery-man. Now Sir, if this be true as you here alledge, it is a Bold Stroke indeed, and to the purpose, if your Friends could clearly make it out as to themselves, as to their present Establishment; but in all their Papers, Precedents and Records which they produce, they are all against themselves; and this is the great stumbling-block which they cannot get over, and thereupon fight against the Wind; and therefore I will now be so fair and kind as to undeceive you, (for I perceive you have been carried away too long with the Torrent of your old Friends Mistakes:) This Common Hall, upon which they so much Magnifie themselves, as to their Uncontroulable Power, was not the Livery Common Hall (as they pretend)

who have no Power in the leaſt over my Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, and Common-Council-Men, as being their Creators; but it was the Common Hall of all the Freemen that was then Aſſembled, in the ſaid Preſidents and Records, who had full Power and Authority among themſelves, by their own Conſent, to make what Orders and Ordinances they pleaſed, for their own eaſe, benefit and conveniency, and by what Methods they would have their Common-Council then Elected, to make their By-laws; and likewiſe by what Method they would chuſe their other Repreſentatives; for them to elect annually their Lord Mayor, & other principal Officers for the City of *London*, for the Year enſuing. And this Auguſt and Venerable Aſſembly were true States-men, & true Engliſh-men, and that long before theſe Livery-Gent. were made our Electors.

Frec-man. Oh Dear Sir, I am almoſt amazed, aſtoniſhed, and ſo ſurprized at this information, that I am not able to contain my ſelf within Bounds; but let theſe Acts and Ordinances be made by either party, it is all one to me; for now I begin to have other Sentiments then I had before; ſince you tell me ſo much of our Antient Fundamental Rights and Liberties, it doth ſo raiſe my intellectual Faculties to that altitude, that I am ſo tranſported of a ſudden, and find ſuch Commotions and Cogitations within me, that I muſt ask you this queſtion immediately, which I did not think on before; May not the ſame Power that Created theſe Topping Livery-men, (which are now grown ſo high) Uncreate them again, if they pleaſe? Pray let me crave your Judgment in the Caſe.

Livery-man. To give you a direct and ſhort Anſwer to your Queſtion, Sir, I am of an Opinion they may; for certainly all Legiſlators have Power to Repeal the ſame Laws they make; but more eſpecially, when upon mature deliberation, they are convinced and ſatisfied they are become Grievances and Offences to the People, for whoſe Eaſe and Welfare (as is preſumed) they were firſt inſtituted, but more particularly when the Electors themſelves are become Turbulent, Tumultuous, Headſtrong,

Headſtrong, and to ſpeak Evil of thoſe Dignities by whom they were firſt Conſtituted, Ordained and Eſtabliſhed.

Freeman. Well Sir, I give you my hearty Thanks for the Satisfaction and Information you have given me in this particular. And for my part, I had much rather truſt a good Honeſt Neighbour of my own in my own Precinct, that I do very well know (and one that our Neighbours have a Kindneſs and Reſpect for) to Vote for me in the Common Hall, than any of the Companies Liveries whoſe Faces I know not ; (and being ſuch Men as you have juſt now Characterized) and beſides theſe Emphatical Words of Electing by my Self or Deputy, ſounds like a good Honeſt Old *Engliſh* Expreſſion, and I am for Honeſt *Old England* with all my Heart, and for all the Rights and Liberties that to her Inhabitants do appertain; and therefore I muſt now confeſs you have brought me over to be of the Freemens ſide, and ſhall not take part with the Livery-men any longer, unleſs they can give me ſome better ſatisfaction as to their Power and Authority, and alſo as to their quiet and peaceable Proceedings in the Common Hall for the future ; for in good Earneſt they were very hot, and not of ſuch a Temper as is proper and requiſite for ſo Grave and Venerable an Aſſembly. But Sir, you being a Livery-man, and of a long ſtanding, pray tell me your Opinion of them, as to their preſent Conſtitution, Power and Authority to Elect our Great Officers, for I am fully ſatisfied and convinced, that it is of Great Concern, Honour and Truſt, both to our ſelves, and to our Poſterity.

Livery man. To deal plainly with you, though I have been a Livery-man for many Years, yet I did never look upon them to be the true Repreſentative Body of all the Citizens of the City of *London*, in regard we are not choſen in our ſeveral Wards, as the Aldermen and Council-men are at this Day, which are a true Repreſentative of all the Freemen, as being choſen by themſelves. And if the Common Council-men of

the City of *London* in thoſe days, did make the aforementioned Act, to debar the Freemen in their ſeveral Wards of their Fundamental Rights and Priviledges, to me it ſeems very ſtrange: But till they ſhall pleaſe to Repeal that Act, we muſt be contented, in as much as we ſent them to *Guild-Hall*, to make ſuch By-Laws for us, as they in their great Wiſdoms ſhould think proper and convenient, for the Good Government and benefit of the whole Corporation; and by their Charter they are Empowered to make By-laws.

Freeman. But ſince they are ſuch wiſe Men (as you ſeem to intimate) pray how came they to make ſuch an untoward Tory kind of Act againſt the Freemen?

Liveryman. Well Sir, I will give you the beſt ſatisfaction I can in that particular, and will tell you my thoughts concerning it. You muſt take notice that it was made many Years ſince, and in the Popiſh times, when the Name of *Roundhead* and *Cavalier*, *Whig*, *Tory*, *Trimmer*, *Quaker*, *Socinian*, *& cum multis aliis*, was not known in the World; and they were all of a peice, and did love one another far better than we Proteſtants (to our ſhame be it ſpoken) do at this day: And the *Liverymen* of *London* were but few in Number, to what they are now; (for many Companies in *London* have been made Livery Companies within theſe few Years) and thoſe that were choſen, were all Grave and Antient Men, (as you ſee the Antient Pictures of them in many Houſes, do repreſent, being in their Fur Gowns and Ruffs) and none then choſen, to be ſent to *Guild-Hall* to ſerve a Turn, and to Vote Right, as it is too apparent it is among all the Conteſting and Divided Parties among us in the reſpective Companies, and this is like to continue *ad infinitum*, (at leaſt ſo long as our Diviſions continue) againſt one another: And no Man can foreſee who ſhall have the benefit at laſt, of that old Motto, *Divide & Impera*; I wiſh we were all truly ſenſible and affected with the Thoughts thereof. But to proceed, They did in thoſe Days

uſually

uſually chuſe him for their Lord Mayor, as was next the Chair, (unleſs they continued the old One, which many times they did for ſeveral Years, as appears upon Record) and no thoughts of paſſing by any Man for fear of his deſtroying their Rights and Liberties, when he came to be their Chief Magiſtrate: And though they were Papiſts, they were then as Zealous and as Jealous, for their common Rights and Liberties, as we can be for our Lives, (witneſs the Barons Wars) for the which, they are handed down to Poſterity (by the Pens Militant) as great *Patriots* for their Country; I wiſh we were all of the ſame Mind, though not of the ſame Perſwaſion, in matters of Religion; which came to them purely by Education, and not by Election, wherein every Man ought to chuſe for himſelf; becauſe every Man muſt anſwer for himſelf (and not for another) at the Univerſal Audit. And now we may ſo far Vindicate the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, and Common-Council-Men in Common-Council Aſſembled, in making that Act in thoſe peaceable Times, as to the Spirit and Tempers of Men, from what they are now, as that they did think, they did the Citizens a great kindneſs, in meeting every Year in their ſeveral Wards, to ſend their Deputes to *Guild-Hall*, they would now ſave them that trouble; which was the undoubted way of the Freemens Election, long before this Act of Liveries took place, which I can make appear as clear as the Sun at Noon-day, by many Ancient Records, if there be occaſion.

Freeman. Very well, this is ſome pretty handſome Apology for that Act, as to them that made it; but by the way, there is one thing now comes in my Head, which is this, Suppoſe theſe Liveries ſhould be laid aſide, and ſome new Meaſures taken to prevent theſe Popular and Tumultuous Elections, will not theſe Livery-men Huff and Bounce, Complain, and make a Noiſe, and tell you that they gave a great deal of Money for being choſen upon the Livery? And now to be debarred their

Rights

Rights in Election of our Officers, this they will tell you, looks ſomething like the Impoſition of Popery, and Slavery, and Arbitrary Government. Pray give me ſome Satisfaction in this Point, if at any time I ſhould hear it rounded in my Ears by any of them.

Livery-man. As to this Point, I am glad you have Started it; for it is a very material one, whereby to ſtop the Mouths of many Grumbletonians (as we have too too many among us at this preſent Conjuncture, and of ſeveral Sorts, and of ſeveral Denominations, the more is our ſhame, and the more is the pity) Pray ask any Livery-man of them all, when he paid his Fine to the Company, for being brought upon the Livery, Whether the Maſter and Wardens by that Act did, or could give him any Power or Authority to be an Elector at *Guild-Hall?* But it was the grace and favour of the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, and Common-Council, in Common-Council Aſſembled, that confer'd that Honour upon him, and not the Company, who can make no Laws but only for their own Corporation; and his Fine is for the better Maintenance and Support of the Company, unto which he is Sworn when he is made Free, to obſerve all the By-laws which they ſhall make, for, or concerning the Weal, Well-ordering, Rule and Government of the ſaid Fraternity. And ſuch Fines was the conſtant Practice of all Companies long before they were made Electors. And it is the conſtant Practice at this Day, (time out of mind) in moſt Pariſhes, Wards and Precincts in the City of *London*, and Liberties thereof, to excuſe Men from holding ſeveral Offices by the way of Fines; and yet the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen muſt not be permitted, by theſe Livery Gentlemen, to have the ſame Power and Authority in their Legiſlative and Politick Capacity; and here one might argue with them, *a minore ad majus*; but in as much as they are at preſent ſomewhat clouded in their Superior Faculties, I will forbear until I hear how this Gentle *Bolus*, and Dormative

Cordial

Cordial will operate upon their Dogmatical Intellectuals, and Crazed Understandings. And what if the Court was pleased to give them the Power of being Electors? Yet as to matter of Fines, they have always, as their Prerogative, reserved that to Themselves, without asking the Consent of the Common Hall, (as is now pretended by these Livery Gentlemen They ought to do) as being a Superior Court to them, to all intents and purposes.

Freeman. Very well, Good Sir, and I am heartily glad of what you have now told me, for you make it fairly and clearly appear, that they have no Title nor Power from their *Halls* to be Electors, but only from the grace and favour of the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, and Common-Council-Men, who made that Act in their behalf; so that I hope I shall stop all their Mouths, if they make a noise *Tom*, to the disturbance of the publick Peace, if some other Measures should be taken upon this account. And in all our Charters, Confirmed by several Acts of Parliament, I do not find one word or Iota to the Livery-men, but to all the Citizens in general; and this must still continue either to Themselves, or their Deputies, which these Gentlemen cannot in the least measure pretend unto, though the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, and Common-Council may, even as the Members of Parliament, being Elected by the Freeholders, and the Members of the respective Burroughs and Corporations in the Country, are stiled, when they meet, *The Commons of* England *Assembled in Parliament.*

Livery-man. Well, now I hope you are pretty well satisfied, as concerning the Premises.

Freeman. Oh my good Friend! You are very much mistaken, if you think I am satisfied in my present state; for as you have informed me of such great things, which are of such great concernment (as you know great Weights, and great Bodies, move but slowly) I would now be informed and satisfied, how these great and mighty things (which are of such absolute and

necessary

neceſſary concernment to our ſelves and our Poſterity) ſhall be accompliſhed; and if you can pleaſe me here, and give me ſome eaſe in this Point; for I am now in a longing condition, as ever any Woman was, when great with Child, you ſhall oblige me to be your particular Friend and Servant, for ever and for ever, *Amen.*

Livery-man. Why Sir, though they are great things, and of great concernment to us all, yet they are not ſo great, but with much facility may be accompliſhed, provided we will take but right Meaſures.

Freeman. Oh thoſe Meaſures, thoſe Meaſures, pray do not keep me too long in ſuſpence about them, for I cannot have any ſatisfaction in my mind, until you have imparted them to me; and if they turn to account, *Eris mihi Magnus Apollo.*

Livery-man. I ſee now Sir, you are more warm and zealous for the Freemen, then you were but even now for the Liverymen; and if your Friends, whoſe Cauſe you did eſpouſe, had been of the ſame Mind as you now are, and had not fallen ſo hot upon the Sheriffs, and their Fines, I preſume they had got more Proſelytes on their Side Ten to One, then they are like to get by their late Tranſactions and Proceedings.

Freeman. In truth Sir, I believe no leſs, and perhaps by our preſent Diſcourſe, many of them may fall in with us; for I my ſelf know now more than I did before, and I hope in a ſhort time they will be in a more ſedate and calm Temper, than they have been hitherto (many of them being very Honeſt and true *Engliſh* Men; and ſome of them have been great Sufferers upon that Accompt) but being ſo far tranſported in their warm Debates in the Common *Hall*, it may be imputed to Zeal without Knowledge, and for want of better Information: Come let us be Charitable in our Cenſures of them upon that account; but pray Sir, put me out of pain, as to thoſe Meaſures, thoſe Meaſures you even now Intimated.

Livery-man.

Livery-man. Why then Sir, in Obedience to your requeſt, I will ſpeak Freely and Franckly to you, upon this great Point, *viz.* That by reaſon of the late Combuſtions and Contentions at *Guild-Hall*, in the Election of Sheriffs, and other Officers for the City of *London* and County of *Middleſex*, for the Year enſuing, You have now a very fair and pertinent occaſion preſents it ſelf, for the Recovery and Reſtoring of your Antient Rights and Liberties; which for ſo many Years laſt paſt, have been taken from you (as is preſumed) without your own conſent, and the meaſures you are now to take, muſt be (though in a very Decent and Orderly manner, and not like the late proceedings by Noiſe and Clamor) by way of an Humble Petition to the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, and common Council-men in common Council Aſſembled, who have the only power, next to the Grand Council of the Nation, now to Relieve you; and peradventure the Court may be very much inclined, at this preſent conjuncture of Affairs, to hearken to your Petition, and eſpecially ſince it will come to them from the hands of many thouſands Worthy Citizens, both Livery-men and Freemen, as will be ready and willing to Subſcribe the ſame.

Free-man. Well, my moſt Cordial Friend, I am now very well pleaſed, and fully ſatisfied, with the Meaſures and Method which you have propoſed for the Recovery of our Antient and Fundamental Rights, which I believe according to *Magna Charta*, no power upon Earth ought to take away from us. But ſometimes the longeſt Sword (where *Inter Arma, Silent Leges*) hath done it, and will do it in Spight of our Teeth: And we muſt ſubmit by Paſſive-Obedience, and Non-Reſiſtance, untill we have a fair oportunity to recover our ſelves again; and as for our *City Charter*, that cannot be Forfeited by any diſuſe, or by any abuſe whatſoever; though the particular Members, for particular Crimes, may forfeit their Lives, Liberties and Eſtates, to His Majeſty; yet the *Charter* is in no

danger, but remains firm and ſtable, (like a Houſe built upon a Rock) to us and to our Children, to all Poſterity.

Livery-man. I perceive now Sir, you can ſay ſomething to the purpoſe, I wiſh we had Ten Thouſand ſuch Proſelites: I believe ſome of our Friends in the Court of Aldermen, would be willing to embrace them upon this account, and thoſe below the Chair will get Immortal Honour, and Renown, in being inſtrumental to have your Petition granted.

Free-man. Sir, as you have hitherto been ſo Courteous and Genteel, as to deny me nothing in what I have been willing to receive Satisfaction; there is one thing more which I muſt needs requeſt of you (and I dare ſay, you will not deny me) *viz.* That you would be pleaſed ſo far to oblige me, as to draw the form of the Petition for us, and then I will trouble you no more

Livery-man, Sir, I muſt beg your Diverſion in that Point, for if I ſhould do it for you, I know many (in our divided and ſubdivided Age) would like it, and many diſlike it; and if it ſhould come to be known who was the Author, I ſhould then (in my preſent Circumſtances) peradventure, bring down an old Houſe upon my Head.

Free-man. Pray (My true Friend) Fear it not in the leaſt, for you are ſo well known, as to have univerſal Love, Charity, and Good-will to all Men, of all Perſwaſions, (that appear ſincere in their Profeſſions) that it is almoſt morally impoſſible that any party of men, of any Perſwaſion, ſhould take it unkindly from you, ſuppoſing your late Objection of being diſcovered.

Livery-man. Well, Sir, in regard of your Importunity, I will endeavour (according to my ſlender Ability) to grant this your laſt Requeſt, to draw the Form of a Petition for you, which you and your Friends may polliſh, and put into better Words and Phraſes than I can do, and alſo to contract the ſame, if there be occaſion, after their Peruſal. And here it is, Pray read it.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, and to the Right Worſhipful Aldermen, his Brethren, and Common-Council-Men of the City of *London*, in Common-Council Aſſembled.

The Humble Petition of the Free-Men of the City of London, *from their ſeveral Wards and Precincts in the ſaid City.*

Sheweth,

'THat whereas it was the Ancient Uſage and Cuſtom 'of all the Free-men of the City of *London*, either 'by themſelves or Deputies from the ſeveral Wards (and 'that long before any Charters were granted unto them, 'which were only Confirmations of their precedent Rights 'and Privileges) annually to Elect their Lord-Mayor, and 'other principal Officers, to ſerve them in their ſeveral Sta-'tions of great Honour and Truſt: A Privilege ſo advan-'tagious to this Great and Populous City, (*England*'s Me-'tropolis) as ought to be deemed of ineſtimable Value to all 'ſucceeding Ages and Generations, and whereon our Lives, 'Liberties and Eſtates do ſo much depend.

'But now ſo it is, (may it pleaſe Your good Lordſhip and 'Worſhips of this grave and venerable Aſſembly) That 'whereas the Livery-men of the ſeveral Companies of this 'City, for many Years laſt paſt, have been the Electors of the 'ſaid Officers, though by no means the Deputies of the 'Free-men, ſo fairly and equally choſen, as the Members of 'this Honourable Court are at this Day, and who are the

'Proper and True Repreſentative Body of all the Free-men of 'the City of *London:* And whatſoever Acts they ſhall paſs 'into By-Laws, (as being in Common-Council aſſembled) for 'the better Regulation, decent Order, and good Government 'of the whole Corporation, it is the Free-mens Act and Deed, 'as choſen by themſelves; and thereupon (if they will be re-'puted peaceable and well-govern'd Citizens) ſhould be con-'tented, and reſt ſatisfied, and ought to acquieſce in all their 'grave and prudent Determinations.

'But inaſmuch as there hath been of late years, ſuch great 'Feuds, Animoſities and Contentions in the Common-Hall, 'among the Liveries of the ſeveral Companies, in the choice 'of the ſaid Officers, in regard they are now grown ſo nume-'rous to what they were formerly, and many of them cho-'ſen (by the Intereſt of ſome prevailing Parties in the reſpe-'ctive Companies, according to the Complexion of the Ma-'ſters and Wardens) to ſerve a turn; and how many more 'they will chuſe, (in their preſent divided ſtate, and as being 'limitted to no certain Number) no Man can fore-ſee; being 'already, as themſelves give out, Seven Thouſand Electors.

'Your Petitioners being ſo much concerned herein, and ſo 'truly ſenſible of the dangerous and ill Conſequence (if not 'timely prevented) which may thence enſue, to the Diſtur-'bance not only of the Publick Peace and Tranquility of this 'City in particular, but to the whole Nation in general; They 'could do no leſs then eſteem it a Duty incumbent on them, 'to expreſs their Reſentment of ſuch irregular and turbulent 'Proceedings; and thereupon have now made their Appli-'cation to this Honourable Court, and moſt humbly pray, *vizt.*

That whereas by a former Act of this Court, (though many years ſince, yet doubtleſs for ſome good Reaſons then appearing unto them) they were pleaſed to reduce the Electors of

the

the aforeſaid Officers to the Livery men of the reſpective Companies: That you would now be pleaſed in your great Wiſdoms (in regard of the precedent Circumſtances) to Repeal the ſame, and by a ſubſequent Act of this Court, Reduce them again (like the Aldermen and Council-men of this City) to a certain Number, and thoſe to be choſen by all the Freemen of the City of London, *in their ſeveral Precincts, (which will be according to their Original and Fundamental Conſtitution) which may very commodiouſly and effectually be accompliſhed, and that to the Content and Satisfaction of all unbyaſs'd Perſons, who are not bigotted to a Party, in manner and form as followeth: (But ſtill in all due Submiſſion to the Judgment of this Honourable Court.*

'That upon the 25th Day of *March* Annually (unleſs it 'fall out on a *Sunday*) or any other Day that ſhall appear more 'convenient to this Court; All the Freemen of the City of 'London, in their ſeveral Precincts, ſhall meet at a certain 'convenient place in the ſaid Precinct, (the Common-Coun-'cil-Man of that Precinct to be then Chairman) and when 'ſo met, they ſhall then Elect and Chuſe two fitting and diſ-'creet Perſons among themſelves in the ſaid Precinct, to be 'ſent to *Guild-Hall*, (ſo often as ſummoned by the Lord May-'or) as their Deputy and Repreſentative in the Common-Hall, 'for the ſaid Precinct, and in conjunction with the Common-'Council-Men for the time being, ſhall be impowered to chuſe 'Members of Parliament as there is occaſion, and all other 'Officers as are now choſen every year (for the City of *London* 'and County of *Middleſex*) by the reſpective Liveries of each 'Company. And every Common Council-Man to make his 'Return of each Perſon ſo choſen, to the Alderman of the 'Ward; and every Alderman to make his Return of the ſe-'veral Perſons ſo choſen in his Ward, to the Court of Alder-

'men,

'men, at the next Court of Aldermen after ſuch Election. '(Which Number will be enough in all Reaſon (being more in 'Number than the Members in Parliament) to Repreſent the 'whole Body of this moſt Renowned, Ancient, and Opulent 'Corporation, which God of his infinite Mercy and Good-'neſs, long preſerve in Peace, Plenty, and Proſperity.)

And your Petitioners (as in Duty obliged) ſhall for ever pray.

Freeman. Well, Sir, I give you my hearty Thanks for this trouble; and tho' the Petition be ſomewhat long, yet I like it very well, in regard it is *ad Rem*; and I hope it will do our buſineſs to all intents and purpoſes; and I hope to get Ten thouſand hands to it in a very ſhort time, if I could get a good honeſt Freeman out of every *Precinct*, to go about his *Precinct* for Subſcriptions; and then I ſhould not value theſe Livery-Men a Ruſh, becauſe I can now make it appear to the very Faces of them, that they are built upon a very tottering, ſandy, and dangerous Foundation: And if you pleaſe to hear me, I will tell you wherein.

Livery-man. Pray Sir, then do; for I perceive you intend to be a Zealot in this New Expedition; and if you could but bring over Mr. *W.* and Mr. *W.* and Mr. *P.* and Mr. *K.* with ſome others that I could name, your Work then, I preſume, would be the ſooner accompliſhed.

Freeman. Well, Sir, I will do what I can; and I hear there is one of our *W*'s come over to us already, (being convinced by an Eminent Dignified Perſon in our City) and ſo *God ſpeed the Plough*, to make a Univerſal Converſion.

Livery-man. Tis true, Sir, that I have heard as much, but I can have no certain aſſurance of the Truth thereof, as to matter of Fact: But the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen,

and

and Common-Council Men in Common-Council Aſſembled, may do it themſelves, if they pleaſe, and ſo ſave you from the trouble of going about to ſo many worthy Citizens, to Subſcribe the ſame; and therefore you need not to be too forward, untill you hear whether the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, are willing to promote ſuch a Petition: *Verbam Sapienti*, I know you underſtand. But you are now gone off from the Text, wherein you ſay that theſe Livery-Men are built upon a ſandy and dangerous Foundation, as if they had no certain aſſurance to preſerve their Lives, Liberties and Eſtates to them and their Poſterity, upon their preſent Conſtitution.

Free-man. Sir I hope I ſhall make it out, (and I beg your pardon for my ſmall Digreſſion, in not giving you an Anſwer immediately) and it ſhall be by putting of a Caſe: Suppoſe that the major part of the Livery-Men choſen by the Maſter and Wardens of each Company ſhould chance to be Men of Complection, which are called by the nick-name of Tories, would not the *Whigs* then think themſelves in danger of having Tory-Lord-Mayors, Tory-Sheriffs, and Tory-Juries, which may, as they have done formerly with a witneſs, hang them up by whole-ſale, by way of *Inuendo*'s, and good brisk Evidence, tho' in the Eye of the Law they were guſlty of no Crime; or elſe our Legiſlators were moſt grievouſly miſtaken in Reverſing their Judgment, and pronouncing them innocent, after the poor Gentlemen had loſt their Lives for the publick good and ſervice of this King and Countrey? And ſo *e contra* on the other ſide, would not the *Tories* think themſelves in danger of being much moleſted and troubled by that ſort of men, if they ſhould chance to be always of the major part, for there can never be any certainty in the Number of either; (and no certain truſt to any party when they come into Power) but if we Citizens and Freemen muſt be always troubled, moleſted and diſturbed by one of theſe Parties, is it not far better to chuſe them our ſelves among our Neighbours,

whom

whom we may turn out the next year, if we do not like them, than theſe perpetual Dictators, whom we know not, and are choſen in for their lives? I dare appeal to any rational Men, tho' but of mean Underſtanding, to be Judge and Jury in this Caſe.

Livery-man. Well, I perceive you are reſolved to ſtudy the Point, againſt you meet your old Friends at the *Amſterdam* and *Bantham Coffee-Houſes.*

Free-man. Yes yes, Sir, with ſome more of your Inſtructions when wee meet again; and I will tell them alſo when I ſee them, hat as to Thoſe Gentlemen who made the Liverymen the Electors, there was not then ſo much danger in that Act as now; for they were then all of one Stamp, and all of one Perſwaſion in matters of Religion, and they good honeſt well-meaning Men could not forſee (nor the Freemen themſelves, who then ſo tamely ſubmitted to the ſaid Act) of the Snake in the Graſs, that ſhould ariſe in after Ages and Generations, which we have ſeen and felt to ſome purpoſe in our Age, to the great Scandal, Shame, and Reproach, of the Profeſſors of that moſt Pure, Peaceably, Gentle, and eaſy to be intreated; full of Mercy and good Works: The moſt Excellent and Divine Religion, Revealed to us from Heaven, by our bleſſed Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; And the truth of it is, by reaſon of our Manifold Diviſions, Feuds, Contentions, Animoſities, Heart-burnings, and the Spirits of Men raiſed to that moſt Inveterate hate of Contemning and deſpiſing one another, even to the very Death, and that upon no other acount, than a ſmall difference in Judgment in matters of Religion, is ſuch an aſtoniſhing and Melancholly conſideration, as that we cannot fore-ſee (even the beſt of us all) how it will pleaſe the moſt High (in his Divine Providence) to deal with us for the future upon this very account: Oh tell it not in *Gath*! nor declare it in the Steeets of *Askelon*; for this is a Lamentation, and will be for a Lamentation to us

of

of this Generation, and I fear alſo (*Rebus, Sic Stantibus*) to our Poſterity. And now he that hath Ears to hear, let him hear.

Livery-man. Well my good Friend, I muſt now thank you for this laſt reſponſe; for I perceive by this, that you can diſcourſe like a Clergy-man as well as a City-Polititian, upon occaſion, and I am glad to hear you are ſo well improved in ſo ſhort a time; ſo that now you will need no Tutor to inſtruct and inform you for the future, but may be turned looſe to ſhift for your ſelf; for when Men come to Embrace moſt Generous and Noble Principles, for the univerſal good and benefit of the whole Creation, including all mens Intereſt and no particular Party of Men, in all their Tranſactions) they have then quite contrary Sentiments, and their Spirits, Powers, and Superiour Faculties are raiſed to that Sublimity of a pure and refined Underſtanding, as that they ſhall be able to bear down and baffle all their Oppoſers, as to the Right of the Caſe, and the Reaſon of the Thing; as the Reverend Doctor *Whichcot*, when *Inter vivos* was uſed (good Man) frequently to expreſs, in his Elaborate Sermons; and is now gon before us, to reap the benefit of his moſt Pious, Devout, and truly Chriſtian Labours.

Freeman. Ay, truly Sir, That Reverend Doctor was a very good Man indeed, and the Chriſtian Church had a very great Loſs (though his gain) in his Removal to the Angelical State in the other World: For as I am informed, he was for no impoſition in matters of Religion; but that all Perſons, profeſſing Faith in God through Jeſus Chriſt, he would have had equally protected (a truly Noble and a truly Divine Chriſtian Principle, and one of his Encomiums at his Funeral Sermon, preached by the late Reverend Arch Biſhop of *Canterbury*.) And had all the reſt of his Brethren of the Clergy been of the ſame Sentiments, Lord! What a happy People, and what a happy Nation we might have been, long before now? But it ſeems we are not yet qualified, (and at the Rate we ſtill go on, I fear

never ſhall be) for ſo great a Bleſſing. O *England*, *England*, (the Paradiſe of the World) and the Inhabitants thereof; Remember, Remember, into what a Low & Degenerate Eſtate and Condition thou art fallen, and yet wilt not conſider, nor be made ſenſible, (by all the ſtupendious Mercies and Judgments you have been exerciſed with, for theſe many years laſt paſt) in the day of your Viſitation..

Livery-man. Very well obſerved, my very good Friend; and I hope at our next meeting, you will be able to give ſome account of your good ſucceſs and progreſs in this great Affair, which we have now brought upon the Stage, and expoſed to publique View, for the uſe and benefit of all the Freemen (and the Livery-men too, if they will but underſtand their, true intereſt,) of this great and populous City of *London*: And when you meet any of their great Champions and *Goliah*'s, at the *Amſterdam* Coffee-Houſe, who are ſo fond of, and depend ſo much upon the preſent Eſtabliſhment, Power, and Authority of theſe preſent Livery-men, which they give out, by a general Meeting of the whole Freemen in the Common-Hall Aſſembled, were made Electors to chuſe the aforeſaid Officers; which I cannot yet perſwade my ſelf, that ever they were ſo void of Underſtanding in their Intellectual Faculties; but it was certainly done by an Act of Common-Council, as before hinted, in the 15th year of King *Edward* the Fourth. But to ſtrengthen your hands when you enter the Liſts with them, pray tell them, That the Common-Council in thoſe days had no power to debar, and keep out all the Citizens but the Liveries, to come to the Elections, in regard ſuch an Act was quite contrary to their Natural and Fundamental Rights and Liberties, (which is, & ought to be like the Laws of the *Medes* and *Perſians*, unalterable) long before any Charters were granted unto them, which were only Confirmations, and not Originals of their Primitive Inſtitution, but Declarative of their

pre-

precedent, Natural, and Fundamental Rights and Priviledges. And moreover, The Common-Council Men themſelves are but the Freemens Deputies, to make convenient By-laws for them, for their Preſervation, and not for their Deſtruction; and all By-laws made againſt their Charter ought to be null, and void of themſelves, if ſtrictly enquired into, and looked after: And therefore they ought to have Aſſerted, Vindicated and Eſtabliſhed the Antient Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, when the Electors came to be ſo Numerous, to have choſen a Select Number among themſelves to have been the Electors, (which Act would have got them Immortal Honour and Renown, to all ſucceeding Generations) and not theſe obſcure Livery-men, who came in of late years, by a ſtrange kind of way, according to the Complection of the Maſter and Wardens, as in their ſeveral reſpective Companies they ſtand affected to this or that party, which either by Intereſt or Education they have eſpouſed. (Two of the grand Obſtacles and Impediments, whereby Truth in all Ages hath prevail'd no more in the World.) But long before this Tory-Act came forth, it was the Uſual and Antient Cuſtom of the Citizens to chuſe the other Way, but even now intimated: For in the 29th year of *Edward* the firſt, it is ſaid, as by Antient Records do appear, That the Election of Mayor and Sheriffs was by a Select Number of Men choſen out of every Ward; At which time Sir *John Blunt* was ſo choſen Lord Mayor, and Mr. *Robert Coller*, and Mr. *Peter Baſano*, were then choſen Sheriffs; and the ſaid Sir *John Blunt* was continued and choſen Mayor for ſeven years ſucceſſively in the ſame manner; (a Perſon ſurely well beloved of the Citizens, to continue him ſo long in that High and Honourable Station) I wiſh we could find but ſuch Men in our Days, the Electors would be very ready in the Common Hall to cry out *Continuation*, *Continuation*, as you know ſome did the other day, *Adhere*, *Adhere*, *Stand to your Election*, *Stand to your former Election*, &c. It

now grows late, let us therefore (my good Friend) think of departing.

Freeman. My dear Friend, this is better and better, and you have now ſtrengthened my Hands to the purpoſe. But in as much as you began, you muſt give me leave to be the laſt in concluding our Friendly Dialogue; (for I am very unwilling to part with you, if the time would permit.) And as to what I ſhall ſay more upon this Subject, in the firſt place it is, That I am heartily ſorry, and much concerned, that theſe Livery-men, and my Brother Citizens, ſhould be ſo much at variance and contention, not only with each other, but alſo with the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, and Common-Council-Men in Common-Council Aſſembled; and at this Juncture of Time to be ſo Ungovernable and Headſtrong, which makes me apt to think, that our Grand Council, (the Wiſdom of the Nation) will take Cognizance of it at their next Seſſions; which if they do, I hope it will tend to their more quiet and peaceable Deportment for the time to come. And Sir, ſince you, as a Livery-man, (tho' contrary to your Intereſt, as may be preſumed, which is truly Noble, Generous, and Genteel) have brought me over to my own Tribe of Freemen; ſo now I would, as a Freeman, willingly convince theſe Livery-Champions, and bring them over to our preſent Sentiments: And when I have an Opportunity, I will ask them a few Queſtions, one whereof, not to trouble you with any more at this time, ſhall be this: Suppoſe the City of *London* ſhould be Fin'd for ſome High Miſdemeanors, (as oftentimes they have been, ſuppoſing a large Sum) pray who muſt pay the ſaid Sum, the Livery-men, who live out of the Freedom, or the Citizens in general, who live within the Freedom? It is a ſhort Queſtion, and let them Anſwer it. We have a late Inſtance of Two Thouſand Pounds *per Annum*, (beſides a conſiderable Revenue of our Cities Lands into the Bargain)

Bargain) which the Citizens muſt pay upon a High-Miſdemeanour and Miſ-management with a witneſs, even for our Predeceſſors, in expending the poor Orphans and Widows Money out of their Publick Treaſury, which they thought was a Sacred Bank, and no *Achans* among them, to be guilty of his Sacrilegious Crimes: I wiſh their Cries have not aſcended to Heaven, and thereby hath been one procuring Cauſe of our preſent Diſtractions.

And therefore how cautious and circumſpect ought we to be in the Choice of our Magiſtrates and Officers, whom we truſt for our Selves and our Children after us, to be Men of known Integrity and Uprightneſs, leſt they ſhould run again (which GOD forbid) into the ſame Extream, when we have put the Power into their hands.

I inſtance this the rather, becauſe I would have our Citizens beware of ſuch Governours to have the Aſcendant among us, who to pleaſe their Superiours, will hang up Innocent Perſons at a very ſtrange rate; perhaps only for Vindicating and Aſſerting their own *Magna Charta* Rights and Liberties, and for ſtanding in the Gap, in Oppoſition to Popery, and Slavery, and Arbitrary Government, and being againſt an Illegal Diſpenſing Power in the Adminiſtration thereof: From ſuch Magiſtrates, *Libera Nos Domine!* And let every True Engliſh Man ſay, *Amen, Amen.*

Liveryman. But you know very well who we may thank for running that Point of Diſpenſing Power ſo high, which I am perſwaded was one principal Cauſe of the late Wonderful and Stupendious, and I will yet hope, when we can all agree, Happy Revolution: And tho' they (poor blind Politicians!) thought it morally Impoſſible to be ſtopped in their full Carreir: To whom therefore ſhould we aſcribe the Praiſe and the Glory, but to the Uncontroulable and Irreſiſtable Power of Infinite Goodneſs and Mercy? And for preventing among us ſuch Magiſtrates for the future, the only probable

means is to Elect them according to the Method propoſed to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, and Common-Council-Men, in Common-Council Aſſembled; and is in the Prayer of the ſaid Petition: Which may be done in two hours time, as well as in two Months, if ever it ſhould come to be reduced into Practice; and we ſhould be ſafe enough in the hands of the Citizens, tho' by no means in the hands of the Liveries.

But to draw towards a Concluſion: There is one thing comes now into my mind, which I will relate to you, if you pleaſe to hear me, and it is an Obſervation of my own, in my converſation with theſe your Friends, and it is this, That in regard theſe Men of the Livery, who now ſo much jar among themſelves, are eſteemed all of a piece in ſome other Concerns, ſhould no better agree in this: And this makes the Obſervation more ſtrange and unaccountable, That when they were formerly under ſome Preſſures, they did often times wiſh, That if once they could but get a good honeſt Set of Aldermen, they ſhould be happy; and if after that, they could but get a good honeſt Set of Common-Council-Men to joyn with them, they ſhould then be yet more happy: And tho' they are convinced and ſatisfied that the major part of the Aldermen and common Council-Men at this day are their Friends, and who have fairly promiſed them that what By-Laws are become Grievances to them, they will take care in due time to have them Repealed; and yet, notwithſtanding they menace them with a Suit of Law in the Caſe, yet they cannot nor will not be Ruled by them, if they do not pleaſe them in every little Nicity and Punctillio as they ſhall deſire. And therefore what ſhall, or can we ſay to theſe Proceedings, but only *Monſtrum Horrendum?* &c. At the which every ſober and ſedate thinking Man among us, (who are of any Improvement in their Intellectuals) ought to be grieved and much concerned (if not ſurprized

and

and aſtoniſhed) at the diſmal apprehenſion of the fatal and dreadful conſequence thereof.

Freeman. And now if you pleaſe (wherein I will not long intrench upon your Patience) to let me be your *Lieutenant*, to bring up the Rear: I will here ſay ſomething in relation to their Sheriffs which they have choſen, and by no means will permit them to Fine, which is is their grand Complaint and Grievance this year, (though admitted, and ſubmitted unto, for many years laſt paſt.) And they give us a Notable and Remarkable Inſtance, in their Printed Paper, of Sir *Chriſtopher Lethuleier* and Sir *John Houblan:* (And this is their great *Goliah*'s Sword, wherewith he doth defy the Armies of *Iſrael.*) But in Anſwer thereunto, they may pleaſe to take notice, that ſome do alledge, That in that Caſe they have not dealt ſo Fairly, and upon the Square, as they ought to have done; (as Men profeſſing to be under a purer Adminiſtration, in their Way of Worſhip, than the reſt of their Neighbours) For they ſay, It is very well known, that at the ſame time many of theſe Worthy Knight's particular Friends did perſwade them to hold; and theſe Gentlemen, out of a Generous and Noble Diſpoſition to oblige them, (and in ſome meaſure to ſtop the then preſent Clamour) did take upon them the ſaid Offices, and were ſworn thereunto; and yet all this while, not that the Common-Hall had any power to bind them (as their own Phraſe is) whether they would or no; and not to be looſed again for one year, purſuant to that By-Law of Common-Council, which is and ought to be in force, until repealed, as well as that very By-Law made by the ſame Power concerning the Liveries, which they have ſo tamely ſubmitted unto (though contrary to their own City-Charter, (wherein all the Freemen are concerned, as made to the Mayor and Commonalty, or *Barons*, as the Old Engliſh Phraſe was, though now uſed as a diſtinction of Honour) for above Two hundred years. And now,

If they Preſcription plead from Times of Yore,
Time makes not Wrongs to be the leſs, but more.

George Wither.

Livery-man. This is is very well obſerv'd, I will aſſure you: And I dare appeal to any Rational Man whatſoever, that is not of a Party, Whether the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, in their more grave and ſerious Debates, are not more proper Judges in this Caſe of Binding and Looſing, than a mixt Multitude of ſeveral thouſands in the Hall, who come, many of them, from all the remote parts of the City at that time, and are under an utter impoſſibility of underſtanding who are fit, and who not fit, to Hold or Fine, for the year enſuing.

And for the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen to be debarred ſo conſiderable a Revenue and Advantage to the *Chamber of London*, which if we could have but a little Patience, and take care every year, as much as in us lies, to Elect Magiſtrates *fearing God, and hating Covetouſneſs*, (which in this Age, you will ſay, is a pretty difficult Task) I queſtion not, but in due time it will turn to account; and that theſe Hot-Spurs ſhould not be made ſenſible of the conveniency thereof, to me it ſeems very ſtrange.

But to accompliſh their own Deſigns, and the Reſult of their private *Caballs*, they have found out and ſtudied a new way of Chymical Extractions and Preparations in Philoſophy, *vizt.* By planting their Emiſſaries and Janizaries with Printed Papers, at the Hall Doors, to manage the Electors, before they enter into their Fort Royal, (or *their own Houſe*, as ſome have call'd it.) A very unfair way of the *Sheriff-Makers*, to anticipate the Freedom and Liberty of any Mans Vote in that Hall,

Hall, by way of Prejudice and Prepoſſeſſion; a Practice doubtleſs not heard of in former Ages, until we came to be ſunk down into that Degenerate (or rather at this time Unregenerate) ſtate, formerly hinted. For when Men come to be Troubleſome, Turbulent, Tumultuous, Hot-headed, Clamorous, Cenſorious, Ungovernable, and the like, are not ſome Marks and Signs of Unregeneracy? Pray let them ask their own moſt Learned and Profound Caſuiſtical Doctors (the Champions of Irreſiſtible Grace, and of a Fixed Decree concerning the Future Immutable State of every particular Perſon, by Virtue of a Divine Preterition, or Election from all Eternity) to reſolve the Point, and who are able to furniſh them with a plentiful number in ſuch Caſes (having always a very good Stock by them) of Marks and Signs to diſtinguiſh the Precious, and the Vile; the Regenerate, and the Unregenerate; the Sheep, and the Goats; the Elect, and Reprobate, one from another.

But in as much as ſome of your Friends (as I am inform'd) were not well-pleaſed with theſe Marks and Signs in the former Edition, as preſuming they did grate a little too hard upon ſome ſort of Men, and thereupon did reflect upon the Authors Integrity and Reputation in his preſent Undertaking; and therefore to make them ſome part of amends for their kindneſs, I will now ſomewhat Enlarge upon the Subject (though I muſt confeſs it is beſide the Matter in hand, which I hope you will pardon) and tell them, It is a Doctrine, eſteemed by many Eminent Learned Men now among us, (who are both Pious and Virtuous, Modeſt and Merciful, Humble and Charitable, Spotleſs and Unblameable, in their Lives and Converſations) ſo Dangerous, ſo Heterodox, ſo Unworthy of, and Derogatory to the very Being of Infinite Goodneſs and Perfection, and ſo Diametrically oppoſite to the Truth and Principal Deſign of the Chriſtian Religion, The Goſpel of God's Free Grace, and Salvation, and Glad-tydings of great Joy and Good-will to all the Sons and Daughters of Men, firſt

ſang in the fulneſs of Time by a Quire of Angels (a multitude of the Heavenly Hoſt) and afterwards Preached by his Dearly Beloved Son, our Bleſſed Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, who laid down his Life for the confirmation of this Truth; ſo that ſuch an Opinion, as before intimated, ought, and that deſervedly, to be expoſed and exploded, as being in the conſequence thereof, enough to Extirpate all true Virtue, and ſincere Piety and Goodneſs out of the World; and it is a Thouſand Pities, that ever any Learned Man ſhould preach it up with that Vehemency and Heat (as many of them have done) as to propoſe it as an Article of their Faith in their Creeds and Confeſſions, the better to have it take place and eſteem in the World; and whereby they lay Pillows under the Elbows of ſo great a part of Mankind, where it is embraced, entertained and received, the dreadful conſequence whereof will be *Graddtim*, to enwrap in Sable Darkneſs the Freedom of our Wills (who are Intelligent Agents) and the Divine Soveraignity of God's Empire, (who Appeals to the Reaſons and Underſtandings of his Rational Creatures, in all his proceedings with them) and Man's Obedience to his moſt Righteous Laws, and Sacred Inſtitutions.

And now to draw towards a concluſion, I will aſſure you, I have no other Deſign herein (though your Friends gave me this occaſion by their Reflections) then to promote the Honour, the Glory, and the Praiſe of the Infinite Goodneſs and Mercy, (with Reverence be it ſpoken) of the moſt High, (whoſe Being and Actings are Originally of Himſelf, and who alone is the King Eternal, Immortal, Inviſible, and only Wiſe God) and to advance true Virtue, ſincere Piety, and Chriſtian Charity in the World; which hath been ſo long vailed and obſcured among the generality of Chriſtians, by the ſubtle Artifice, and inflamed Zeal, of ſome ſort of Divines among us; on purpoſe to keep up the ſeparate Intereſt of their Party, and their own Credit, and Reputation, and plentiful

Incomes

Incomes in the World: Though the precedent Doctrines, and ſome others I could name (which they alſo place in the number of their Fundamentals) are quite contrary to the whole current of Divine Revelation, both of the Old and New Teſtament. And I preſume theſe Nonconformiſts Gentlemen could not keep up the Intereſt of ſeparate Parties ſo long as they have done, did they not preach up a different Doctrine from what is now generally and publickly received among us: And I am perſwaded, ſhould our Legiſlators be once pleaſed to open our Church Doors ſo wide, as to ſet in the Congregational Diſſenters, they would there be Charmed with more Sound and Orthodox Doctrine, than they had been accuſtomed to hear, and by that means, in a little time, would drain their Beloved Tabernacles to a very inconſiderable number, to what they are at preſent. I think it is now high time to depart. *Vale.*

Freeman. Good Sir, you need not have made any Apology, or craved any Pardon for this ſmall Digreſſion, (wherein there is *Multum in Parvo*) which I will aſſure you is very acceptable unto me, in regard I was formerly ſomewhat tainted with thoſe ſevere and rigid Principles, but am now got pretty well over them; and I preſume, when my good Friends have peruſed it, they will forbear any farther Perſonal Reflections on you, leſt at your next putting your Pen to Paper, you might yet more ſeverely expoſe them.

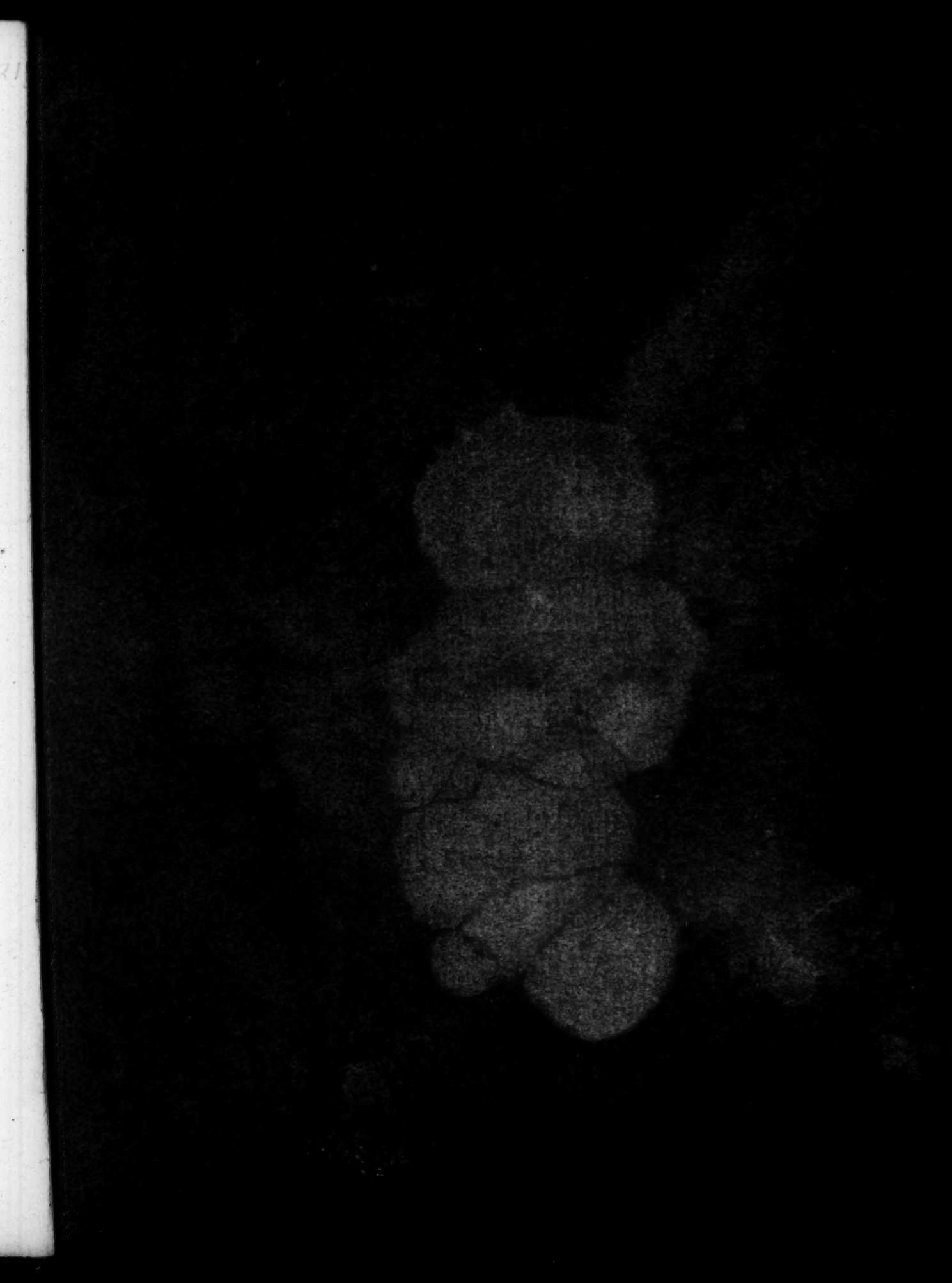
And for my part, I do verily believe you had no ſiniſter or unworthy Deſign in your Undertaking this preſent Controverſal Point, (ſo earneſtly contended for this Year, with more Heat, and inconſiderate Zeal than is requiſite, neceſſary, and convenient) than to promote and procure the Honour, true Peace, and Tranquility of this Ancient and Renowned Corporation, and to aſſert the Fundamental Rights and Liberties of the Members thereof.

F 181452

And now to conclude the whole; if any of these Livery-Gentlemen will be pleased to enter the Lists, and by another Friendly Dialogue will give me any better Satisfaction, as to the Premises, than you have done, and will propose a more true *Basis*, and more firm and lasting Foundation to Settle and Unite us upon, than what is herein proposed, which will doubtless continue to future Generations, when once reduced into practice, I shall most heartily thank him for it; for I never was so tenacious, or so firmly fixed in my Judgment and Opinion, whether in Civils, or in Spirituals, (as too many Thousands are at this Day in the World) but upon a *melius inquirendum*, I was willing to quit my former Station, and to embrace that, which according to the best of my Reason and Understanding, I did apprehend to be more true; (and I could wish all Rational and Intelligent Animals were of the same Perswasion.) And so farewel, my Dearest Friend, until our next Rencounter. I am,

(*Worthy and much Honoured Sir*)
your most sincerely Affectionate, and for ever Obliged Friend to Serve you, Usque at Mortem,

Freeman.

FINIS.

Page 23. line 16. *Men of that Complection*, line 26. for *this* read *their*.